

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, NU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL ENQUIRY ON US INVOLVEMENT WITH
NICARAGUAN SECURITY OPERATIONS

1. SENATOR JAMES ABOUREZK OF SOUTH DAKOTA HAS WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY REQUESTING INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF USG PERSONNEL IN GON COUNTERINSURGENCY/SECURITY OPERATIONS. SENATOR ABOUREZK REQUESTS ANSWERS TO SERIES OF QUESTIONS TOUCHING ON ACTIVITIES OF MILGROUP AND AID PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS, PARTICULARLY GUNTHER WAGNER. DEPARTMENT PREPARING INTERIM REPLY, AND EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO ASSIST PREPARATION OF MORE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE. FYI: ABOUREZK QUESTIONS PARALLEL STATEMENTS MADE IN ;ANDINISTA PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAVANA, JANUARY 2.

2. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF LETTER FOLLOW. BEGIN QUOTE:

(1.) ARE THERE NOW OR HAVE THERE BEEN IN RECENT YEARS ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL - MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, IN-
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CLUDING CONTRACTEES TO ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY - FLYING

HELICOPTERS OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF THE SOMOZA GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES? HAVE ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL - CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, INCLUDING CONTRACTEES BEEN ACCOMPANYING SOMOZA FORCES IN FIELD

EXERCISES OR CAMPAIGNS OR OTHERWISE PROVIDING ADVICE OF ANY SORT TO THE NICARAGUAN ARMED FORCES? IF THE ANSWER TO EITHER OF THESE QUESTIONS IS AFFIRMATIVE, PLEASE LIST THE NUMBER OF U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL OR CONTRACTEES (OF ANY NATIONALITY) INVOLVED, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR WHICH THEY WORK, THE EXACT NATURE OF THEIR ASSIGNMENTS, AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH PERTAINS TO THEIR ACTUAL DUTIES. ALSO PLEASE INCLUDE THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL JUDGEMENT ON WHETHER THEIR DUTIES AND/OR ACTIVITIES ARE COVERED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE WAR POWERS ACT PASSED BY THE CONGRESS LAST YEAR.

(2.) DOES GUNTHER WAGNER, FORMERLY OF AID'S PUBLIC SAFETY MISSION IN MANAGUA AND NOW AN ADVISOR TO THE SOMOZA GOVERNMENT, STILL HAVE ANY AFFILIATION FINANCIAL, ADVISORY OR OTHERWISE WITH ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE THE EXACT NATURE OF WAGNER'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES.

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE EXACT NATURE OF WAGNER'S DUTIES WHEN HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY MISSION IN MANAGUA AND ANSWER THE RECENT CHARGES BY MEMBERS OF SANDINISTA MOVEMENT THAT WAGNER SUPERVISED OR GAVE ADVICE TO NICARAGUAN SECURITY FORCES IN COUNTERINSURGENCY, TORTURE, AND REPRESSION. ALSO, PLEASE EXPLAIN IF WAGNER OR ANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY IN NICARAGUA PLAYED ANY ROLE AT ALL IN ESTABLISHING OR OPERATING ANY SO-CALLED "ESCUADRON DE LA MUERTE" IN NICARAGUA.

(3) ARE ANY BRAZILIANS NOW IN NICARAGUA ADVISING LOCAL SECURITY FORCES OR OTHERWISE ASSISTING IN COUNTERINSURGENCY PROGRAMS? IF SO, ARE ANY OF THESE BRAZILIANS PAID DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT OR OTHERWISE IN CONTACT WITH ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRACTEES IN NICARAGUA? PLEASE EXPLAIN THE EXACT NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR ANY OF IT; AGENCIES.

IN CASE THERE IS ANY DOUBT, THE ANSWER TO ANY QUESTION ABOVE REFERRING TO ANY OR ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHOULD INCLUDE THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND ALL OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

END QUOTE.

3. COUNTRY TEAM COMMENTS, INCLUDING SPECIFIC DISCLAIMERS
OF ANY KNOWLEDGE WHERE APPROPRIATE, ARE REQUESTED ASAP ON
EACH QUESTION ABOVE. INGERSOLL

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